



Her Maiestie being given to vnderstand, that sundry lewde and sedicious brutes haue bene lately spread and caryed abroade in many Shires of the Realme by some vnquiet and factious spirits, who, vnder diuers false and colourable suggestions, put into simple Billetes in writing, & tending to the disturbance of common peace, haue trauayled her good and louing subiects in diuers partes of her sayd Realme, by Hues and cries followed from place to place, without warrant or direction from any Iustice of peace, or name of any speciall Officer resident within the sayde Shires, who in such cases ought to haue bene informed thereof. Albeit her Maiestie doe greatly commend the loue, care and affection of her good subiectes, who haue shewed so great a readinesse to imploy their trauayles vpon this occasion in the respect of her seruice, pretended by such writings and brutes: yet finding the same to proceede originally from the meere practise of some sedicious instruments, disposed to lay holde vpon any pretexte that may be offred them to trouble the peace of her said Realme, by stirring by such of their owne humours as are apt to tumult and alteration, Her Maiestie hath thought good to notifie & declare to all her louing subiects, that as shee doth most iustly hold the inuentors thereof worthe of extreme punishment, so doth she also condemne the spreading and carying of the sayd brutes in the next degree, both tending to the disquiet and trouble of her said realme and subiects. And therefore by this her proclamation, her Maiestie doth expressely command all Licutenants of Shires, Sheriffs, Iustices, and other her Maiesties Officers and Ministers, both in townes corporate and all other places whatsoever, to whome in this case it may appertayne, that they do not onely take present order for the speedie ceassing of all such brutes and rumors, with the hewes and cryes, and the extraordinary watches growing thereof, within the Countries and ciuities vnder their seuerall charges, but also cause forthwith diligent inquirie to bee made of the Autho:rs of the same: and if any such be found, leuerey to punish them as seditious perturbers of the common quiet. And that all Constables hereafter that shall first receiue any such report or charge for making of such hewe and cry, or for setting of such extraordinary watches, take care to slay the first autho: to be answerable thereto as there shalbe cause, vpon payne of being otherwise punished himselfe, as the first autho: and inuentor thereof. Given at our Manour of Greene wich, the vi. day of februarye, 1586. in the nine and twentieth yeere of our raigne.

God saue the Queene.

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Barker, Printer to the Queenes most excellent Maiestie.